



RESEARCH ARTICLE

DETERMINANTS OF PARENTING STYLES ADOPTED BY MOTHERS OF PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN ACCORDING TO CHILD AND MOTHERS VARIABLES

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Abstract

The parent- child relationship has a major influence on most aspects of child development. The present study is conducted to know the Determinants of Parenting Styles adopted by fathers according to Child variables. Sample consists of 220 mothers of pre-school age children selected from Thirupati and Hyderabad. Multi stage systematic random sampling technique was used to select sample. Sample mothers were administered with Parental Attitude towards their Own Upbringing Scale and Parenting Styles Questionnaire. The results of linear regression analysis revealed that the major determinants of child variables for adoption of parenting styles adopted by mother, birth order of the child showed significant contribution towards adoption of authoritarian and authoritative parenting style. Only birth order showed significant contribution towards permissive parenting style. Age of the mother, education of the mother, occupation of the mother and attitude of the mother were contributing significantly towards authoritarian and permissive parenting styles adopted by mothers of pre-school children.

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Introduction:-

Parents play an important role in disciplining the child. There are different determinants which can impact the parenting style adopted by parents. The child-parent relationship has a major influence on most aspects of child development. Belsky (1984), proposed an ecological process model of the multiple psycho-social determinants of parenting that influence child development. This theoretical model presumes that child development is predicted by parenting that is directly determined by three domains of influence that is child characteristics, parent's characteristics and contextual factors.

Child Characteristics:

The characteristics of children such as age, gender, birth order can act as support or stress factors and the balance of these factors determine the quality of parenting (Wood ward and Fergusson, 2002).

Parental Characteristics: Despite the strong influence of their own upbringing on parenting, parental disciplinary practices also depend on parental characteristics such as age, gender, education qualification, occupation etc.,

Objectives:-

1. To know the different parenting styles adopted by mothers of pre-school children

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2. To know the determinants of parenting styles adopted by mothers of sample children according to child variables.
3. To know the determinants of parenting styles adopted by mothers of sample children according to mother variables.

Methodology:-

The following tool specially developed for the research purpose were used for the study

Tools: 1. Parenting Styles Questionnaire (PSQ)

Parenting Styles Questionnaire (PSQ)

was specially developed for present research purpose. It has 54 items and the distribution of items in different heads with five points rating scale. The questionnaire has items distributed under three areas viz Authoritarian, Authoritative and Permissive parenting style with 18 items each area and together there were 54 items. Test reliability was established and was found to 0.68 which was significant at 0.01 levels. The validity was also established for the tool.

Sample:

The sample of the study consists of 220 mothers from Tirupati and Hyderabad of United Andhra Pradesh.

Data Collection

Multistage Stratified random sampling technique was used to select the sample. In first stage investigator randomly selected the parents who have pre-school age children studying in Government and private schools at Tirupati and Hyderabad. The investigator personally visited homes and established good rapport with the parents. Mothers were interviewed in their homes individually and separately about Parenting Styles adopted by them using PSQ.

The data obtained was scored and suitable statistical analysis (Multiple linear regressions) was performed to know the determinants of parenting styles.

Results and Discussion:-

Parenting Styles Adopted by Mothers

The data collected from the Parenting Styles Questionnaire was scored and based on the scores the sample parents were classified into three groups viz., authoritarian, authoritative and permissive. The mean scores obtained for three types of parenting styles adopted by mothers viz., authoritarian, authoritative and permissive 46.77 (SD=14.590), 55.04 (SD=12.743) and 32.61 (SD=7.624) respectively for mothers. Based on the mean $\pm$ 1 SD again sample parents under each category of parenting styles were divided into three groups i.e., less authoritarian, moderate authoritarian and more authoritarian. Similarly parents were classified under democratic/authoritative and permissive styles.

Table 1 shows the data about three parenting styles i.e., authoritarian, democratic/ authoritative and permissive parenting styles adopted by mothers

Sl.No	Type of Parenting Style	Mothers	
	Authoritarian Style	Number	Per cent
1	Less authoritarian	105	47.7
2	Moderate authoritarian	59	26.8
3	More authoritarian	56	25.5
	Total	220	100.0
	Authoritative Style		
1	Less authoritative	22	10.0
2	Moderate authoritative	134	60.9
3	More authoritative	64	29.1
	Total	220	100.0
	Permissive Style		
1	Less Permissive	127	57.7

2	Moderate Permissive	80	36.4
3	More Permissive	13	5.9
	Total	220	100.0

Table 1:- Distribution of the Sample Mothers according to different Parenting Styles

From table 1 it is evident that parents displayed features of three types of parenting. When parenting styles implemented by mothers were observed 47.7 percent of mothers were less authoritarian. Next to it, one fourth of mothers 26.6 per cent were moderately authoritarian. Followed by 25.5 percent mothers were implementing more authoritarian.

Authoritative parenting style is a more flexible style of parenting and majority of sample mothers 60.9 per cent were found to be moderately authoritative. One third of the mothers (29.1 per cent) were more authoritative and only 10 per cent of mothers were less authoritative.

Permissive style of child rearing is nurturing and accepting, but it avoids making demands or imposing controls of any kind. From table 1 it is known that more than half of the mothers 57.7 per cent were found to be less permissive. Whereas 36.4 per cent of mothers were moderately permissive. Very few mothers (5.9 per cent) were less permissive. Joseph and John (2008) reported that children of permissive parents tend to have good social skills but are more prone to problem behavior.

Determinants of Parenting Styles adopted by mothers

This section deals with determinants of parenting styles adopted by mothers and demographic variables. Regression analysis was carried out to arrive at the crucial variables that were the determinants of parenting Styles adopted by fathers with regard to child variables

Child variables of the study includes age, gender, birth order of the child, type of school child has attended.

Table 2:- Determinants of Parenting Styles adopted by mother according to child Variables.

S.No.	Variables	Regression Co-efficient B	Standard error of B	't' Value	Significant value
Authoritarian Mother					
1	Gender of the Child	0.002	2.134	0.028	0.978
2	Age of the child	0.095	2.135	1.298	0.196
3	Birth order of the child	0.195	1.577	2.777	0.006**
4	Type of school	0.101	2.063	1.426	0.155
Multiple R=.340^a; R² =.116; f Value =2.476; Sig Value=.006					
Authoritative Mother					
1	Gender of the Child	-0.076	1.920	-1.010	0.314
2	Age of the child	-0.049	1.921	-0.645	0.520
3	Birth order of the child	-0.137	1.419	-1.891	0.060*
4	Type of school	-0.102	1.857	-1.400	0.163
Multiple R=.248^a; R² =.062; F Value =1.241; Sig Value=.262^b					
Permissive Mother					
1	Gender of the Child	0.055	1.014	0.829	0.408
2	Age of the child	-0.281	1.014	-4.209	0.000**
3	Birth order of the child	0.075	0.749	1.179	0.240
4	Type of school	0.027	0.980	0.414	0.680
Multiple R=0.519^a; R² =0.269; f Value =6.963; Sig Value= 0.000^b					

**P< 0.01, *P<0.05

Table 2 indicates that the f Value for authoritarian parenting style of mothers was 2.476 which was significant and model is adequate. Among the child variables viz., gender, age, birth order of the child and type of school child only birth order of the child showed significant contribution (t= 2.777 P<0.006).

Birth order of the child seemed to be significant determinant when authoritative parenting style adopted by mother was observed ($t = -1.891P < 0.060$). An observation of table 15 shows that as the order of birth of child increased mothers exercised more authoritarian and less authoritative parenting style.

When permissive parenting style of mother was observed the f value (6.963) was significant at 0.001 level. Hence this model is adequate. Age of the child showed significant contribution ($t = -4.209 P < 0.000$). Barkin (2007) also reported that among the major determining factors age was found to be notably associated with disciplinary techniques reported by mothers.

Table 3:- Determinants of Parenting Styles Adopted by Mother according to Mother Variables.

S.No.	Variables	Regression Co-efficient B	Standard error of B	't' Value	Significant value
Authoritarian Mother					
1	Age of the mother	-0.125	1.200	-1.651	0.100
2	Birth order of mother	0.021	1.419	0.300	0.764
3	Education of mother	-0.038	0.984	0.608	0.608
4	Occupation of the mother	0.085	1.059	0.260	0.260
5	Attitude of the mother	-0.145	1.377	-2.038	0.043*
Multiple R=0.340^a; R² =0.116; f Value =2.476; Sig Value=0.006^b					
Authoritative Mother					
1	Age of the mother	-0.045	1.080	-0.577	0.564
2	Birth order of mother	0.003	1.276	0.038	0.969
3	Education of mother	-0.057	0.885	-0.745	0.457
4	Occupation of the mother	-0.049	0.953	-0.640	0.523
5	Attitude of the mother	-0.045	1.239	-0.610	0.543
Multiple R=0.248^a; R² =0.062 f Value =1.241; Sig Value=0.262^b					
Permissive Mother					
1	Age of the mother	-0.210	0.570	-3.053	0.003**
2	Birth order of mother	0.105	0.674	1.683	0.094
3	Education of mother	0.267	0.467	3.994	0.000**
4	Occupation of the mother	-0.268	0.503	-3.928	0.000**
5	Attitude of the mother	-0.038	0.654	-0.595	0.553
Multiple R=0.519^a; R² =0.269 ; f Value =6.963 ; Sig Value= 0.000^b					

** $P < 0.01$, * $P < 0.05$

It is known from table that the f value of authoritarian parenting style adopted by mother was 2.476 which was significant at 0.001 level. It indicates model as adequate. Among five parent variables, attitudes of mother towards their own upbringing ($t = -2.038 P < 0.043$) was contributing significantly towards authoritarian parenting style adopted by mother.

For authoritative parenting style, f value was not significant and model was not adequate. With regard to permissive parenting style f value was 6.963 which was significant at 0.001 level and model is adequate. Among five parent variables three variables were found to be highly significant contributing factors towards permissive parenting style adopted by mothers. They were age of the mother ($t = -3.053, P < 0.003$) education of mothers ($t = 3.994 P < 0.000$) and occupation of mothers ($t = -3.928 P < 0.000$). JohariTalib (2009) also reported that parental job status, salary, parental education had strong effects on children's behavior.

Conclusions:-

1. The results of multiple linear regression analysis revealed major determinants of parenting styles adopted by mothers
2. The following are the major determinants of child variables for adoption of parenting styles by mothers
3. Birth order of the child showed significant contribution towards adoption of authoritarian and authoritative parenting style.
4. Age of the child found to be contributing factor for permissive parenting styles adopted by mothers
5. The following are major determinants of mother variables for choosing different parenting styles by mothers

6. Mother variables like age, education and occupation of the mothers contributing towards Permissive parenting style adopted by mothers.
7. Attitudes of the mothers towards their own upbringing showed significant contribution towards exercising of Authoritarian parenting style.
8. No factors contributing for authoritative parenting style adopted by mothers.

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